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ACTION: POL-3  
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STATE 140913  
JULY 19, 1973

0 101844Z JUL 73  
TO SECRETARY WASHINGTON  
TO FROM/AMEMBASSY KASUL IMMEDIATE 4761  
FROM/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 4367  
FROM/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 7143  
FROM/AMEMBASSY ISLA ABAD 4633  
FROM/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 3393  
FROM/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5421  
FROM/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2321  
BT

Don  
D/S/9

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E.O. 11652: W/A  
TAGS: PFUR  
SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 18,  
1973:

Q. HAVE THE TALKS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND MRS.  
CHANDI ALREADY STARTED? AND IF SO, COULD YOU GIVE US A  
RECOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FIRST SESSION?

A. WELL, THEY DID TALK YESTERDAY. THERE WAS A MEETING  
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND MRS. CHANDI.

WHILE I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO ALL OF THE SPECIFICS  
OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, THEY DID TALK ABOUT THE RUPEE QUES-  
TION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

Q. THIS, THEN, MARKS THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE  
THE RUPEE QUESTION WITH THEM?

A. IT'S BEEN DISCUSSED, PROBABLY BEFORE WITH THE INDIANS  
IN A GENERAL WAY, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT  
THIS MIGHT MARK THE BEGINNING OF A MORE FORMAL BEGINNING  
TO A STUDY OF THE RUPEE QUESTION.

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE AFGHAN SITUATION--TODAY?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN.  
THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS UNDER STUDY.

Q. WELL, DOES THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION ARISE?  
V. IT'S UNDER STUDY.

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Q. IS THAT BECAUSE THE SITUATION IS STILL UNCLEAR, OR  
WHAT?



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PAGE 2 STATE 144913

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A. THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION <sup>Classification</sup> IS ONE ON WHICH NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS OF THIS TIME.

Q. ARE CONTACTS CONTINUING BETWEEN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN KABUL AND THE NEW REGIME?

A. WELL WE STILL HAVE OUR EMBASSY THERE. I AM SURE THAT THERE ARE SOME OF THE DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS. FOR EXAMPLE, I AM AWARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN KABUL DID APPROACH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY "THE GOVERNMENT" WHICH ONE IS IT?

A. WELL, THE ONE THAT IS IN PLACE.

Q. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT?

A. THE ONE THAT'S IN PLACE NOW.

Q. WAS THE UNITED STATES ONE OF THE GOVERNMENTS APPROACHED?

A. WELL, IT WAS THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, --

Q. IS THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL ASKING OTHER NATIONS TO MAKE SOME KIND OF POSITIVE STATEMENT THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL AS THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT -- IS THAT RIGHT?

A. YES.

Q. WHO IS DOING THE STUDYING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT? IS IT THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR?

A. WELL, IN MATTERS OF THIS KIND, IT WOULD INVOLVE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. --

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONTACT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND THE KING, IN ITALY?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM TO AFGHANISTAN -- HAS THAT BEEN CONTINUING DURING THE STUDY PERIOD?

A. YES.



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C. WHAT WAS THE U.S. EMBASSY RESPONSE TO THIS APPROACH?

A. WELL, WE HAVEN'T RESPONDED.

GIVEN BELOW IS GUIDANCE GIVEN TO SPOKESMAN BUT NOT USED

C. DID HE TELL HER WE WERE ACCEDING TO INDIA'S REQUEST TO END U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?

A. AS I SAID, WE DON'T COMMENT ON SPECIFICS OF OUR TALKS. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND I CAN SAY THAT THE INDIANS DURING 1978 REVIEWED EXISTING U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THOSE PREVIOUS PROJECTS WOULD BE GRADUALLY PHASED OUT. THAT IS WHERE THINGS STAND AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

C. DID HE ALSO TALK ABOUT THE AID HOUSING COMPLEX?

A. YES BUT AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID, I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS. THESE ARE MATTERS OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

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